



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
SECRETARY OF STATE

March 7, 2019

The Honorable James G. Townsend  
New Mexico Representative, District 54  
House Republican Leader

The Honorable Rod Montoya  
New Mexico Representative, District 1  
House Republican Whip

Re: Senate Bill 8 – Referendum Petition Request

Dear House Republican Leader Townsend and House Republican Whip Montoya,

I am in receipt of your March 7, 2019, letter that was hand-delivered to my office earlier today. As I understand your letter, you would like my office to prepare petitions so that you may attempt to cause a referendum vote on Senate Bill 8, the Firearm Sale Background Check, which recently passed the State House of Representatives and the State Senate by a majority vote and is awaiting possible signature by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham.


As I'm sure you are aware, State law provides that you would need to provide an original draft petition to me so that I can determine whether it meets the legal referendum petition requirements. Specifically, NMSA 1978 § 1-17-8(A) provides that:

Before any referendum petition is circulated for signatures, the sponsors shall submit the original draft thereof to the secretary of state to determine whether or not it meets the requirements of law for referendum petitions.

Upon the timely submission of the original draft of a referendum petition such as you are contemplating, I will make the determination as to whether or not your petition meets the legal requirements.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

  
Maggie Toulouse Oliver  
New Mexico Secretary of State